Challenges in Providing Counseling in the Church

Since Christ is the true healer,

why would we send people outside the church

to find healing?

Eternal Light

Christian Counseling Services

Dr. Robert L. Hollis (“Dr. Rob”)

- **Ph.D. in Clinical Christian Counseling**
  - Marriage Therapist (crisis & restoration)
  - Struggles with Self-control
- **Executive Director Eternal Light CCS**
- **Co-founder of *The Academy***
  Eternal Light Christian Counseling Academy
- **Author of Ready for Restoration**
  The Revelation of God’s Plan in Your Surrender
- **Certified Counseling Supervisor**
  National Christian Counselors Association
- **Wife and Co-counselor: Dr. Lynne**
  Ph.D. in Clinical Christian Counseling

Counseling Guardrails

Secular Counseling

- Client must initiate talk about Christ
- Bound by the state licensing board
- Healing thru Psychology over Christ

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- Must be Christ-centered
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- **Can be God-honoring**

Christian Counseling

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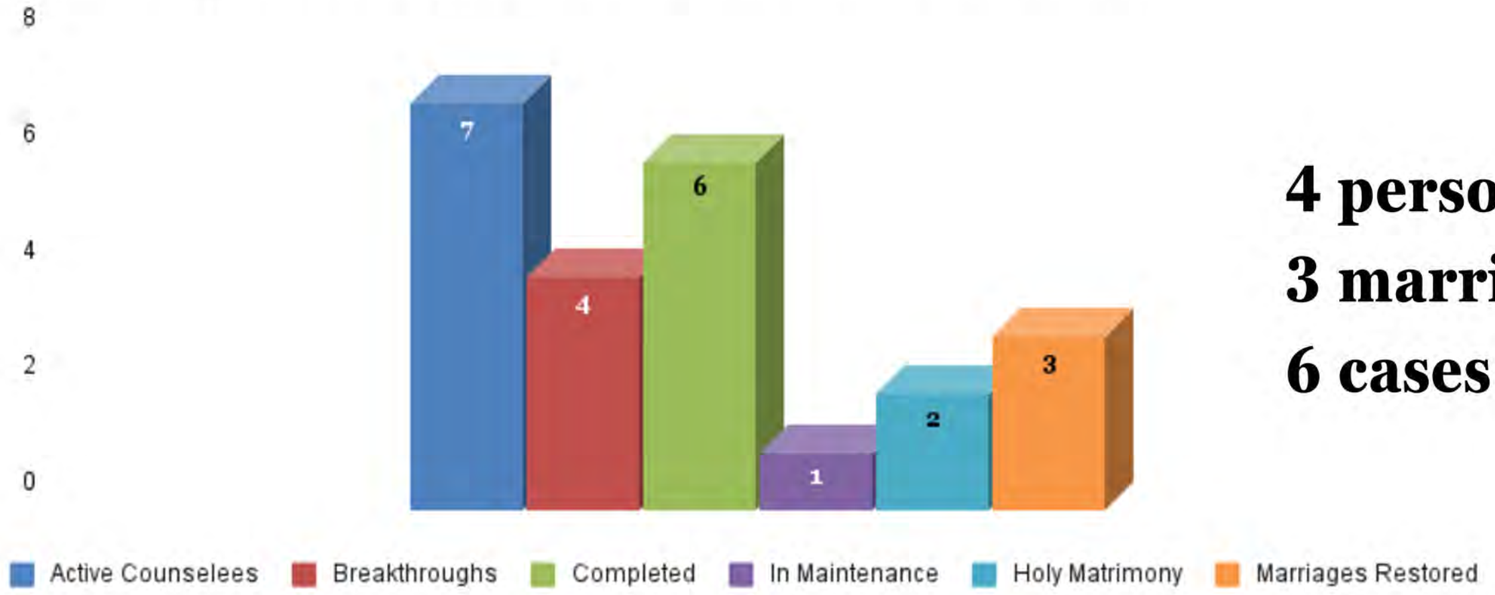
- Bound by Commitment to God
- Healing thru Christ over Psychology
- **Committed to Christ**

6 Months at Eternal Light

Making an Impact since March 2024



4 personal breakthroughs

3 marriages restored

6 cases of new hope and peace

2 counselors working part-time

In-church Counseling Challenges

Time

- Consistency
- Coverage
- Competing Duties

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Tools

- Training
- Diagnostics
- HIPAA!

In-church Counseling Challenges

Dual Relationships

- **Confusion**
- Perceived Disclosure
- Unintended Manipulation

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Dual Relationships

- Confusion
- **Perceived Disclosure**
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"Was that about me?!"

In-church Counseling Challenges

Dual Relationships

- Confusion
- Perceived Disclosure
- **Unintended Manipulation**

"I think he's trying to get me to volunteer"

Dual Relationships Blur the Lines

In-church Counseling Challenges

Time

- Consistency
- Coverage
- Competing Duties

Tools

- Training
- Diagnostics
- HIPAA!

Dual-relationships

- Trust
- Confidentiality
- Authority

Where should we send them for healing?

Secular Counseling
Can be God-honoring

Christian Counseling
Committed to Christ

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Financial Barriers

- No Insurance
- High Copays
- High thresholds

Refer Members to another Church

Raises the question…

Is my church equipped to meet my needs?

What can a church do?

- ✗ Leadership and laypeople
- ✗ Refer to secular counseling
- ✗ Refer to another church
- ? Establish a professional-grade in-house counseling ministry

Consider…

FaithCare.EternalLightCCS.org

As your adjunct ministry,

you no longer have to

send your members

to other churches or secular sources

to get the counseling they need.

Thank You

Church Partnering: FaithCare.EternalLightCCS.org

Replay and Slides: oct30replay.EternalLightCCS.org

Charitable Gifts: Donations.EternalLightCCS.org